

LAST PICTURE SHOW IN GARDEN CITY



Hundreds showed up to stare at the side of Formerly Crane's coffee shop in Garden City, where store owner Roxie Brandts was showing "Thunder Road" free to the public. Brandts has shown old movies outdoors in Garden City for three years. It was the last showing of the summer.

Late Bronnberg

"I didn't even wear shoes and I brought my favorite blanket," Angie Backer said. "It's like being in your own home, doing whatever you want, only really you're outside."

Roxie Brandts, Formerly Crane's owner, has been showing outdoor movies on the side of the coffee house for three years. Sunday's "Thunder Road" showing was the second and final movie of the summer.

A hog roast and bingo preceded the movie, which began at dusk. Admission to everything was free. Money isn't what motivates Brandts' interest in both her coffee

shop and the events she holds outside of it.

Last picture show in Garden City

Folks flock to films August 31, 2003

By Amanda Dyslin Free Press Staff Writer

GARDEN CITY — Erika and Cole Wobbrock had the best seats in the "house" Sunday night for a movie neither was all that excited about watching.

Sitting atop the roof of the family minivan under the night sky, with pillows and blankets, any movie would have been fine with Erika, 7, and Cole, 4.

It wasn't "Thunder Road" that brought the Wobbrock family all the way from Le Sueur. It was the ambiance.

"They really enjoy these," Kim Wobbrock said. "I always did when I was little and went to the old drive-ins."

Projected on a large new movie screen hung on the side of Formerly Crane's, the outdoor show was reminiscent of the old drive-in days, when moviegoers could get away with almost anything in the privacy of a car.

"It's a good way to get the community to get together," Brandts said. "People seem to really enjoy it."

About 200 people came out Sunday night, mostly dressed in sweatshirts and jeans for the 65-degree weather. Some of them brought their classic cars to decorate the lot at Brandts' request.

Myra Jongbloedt, Brandts' "right hand," said the historical aspect of the events also is important to Brandts.

"Formerly Crane's is a small little coffee shop that used to be a hardware store in town — **it's a historical place in Gard-en City**," Jongbloedt said. "And there's just not much left of Garden City, anymore."

"So, when the school closed, Roxie got a projector and an old screen from a movie theater and started showing old movies."

Brandts leans toward older movies as a way to revisit the past and keep the nostalgic feeling of the evenings. Thus, Sunday's black-and-white "Thunder Road" from 1958 and "Grease" and "American Graffiti" in past showings.